Shoreline
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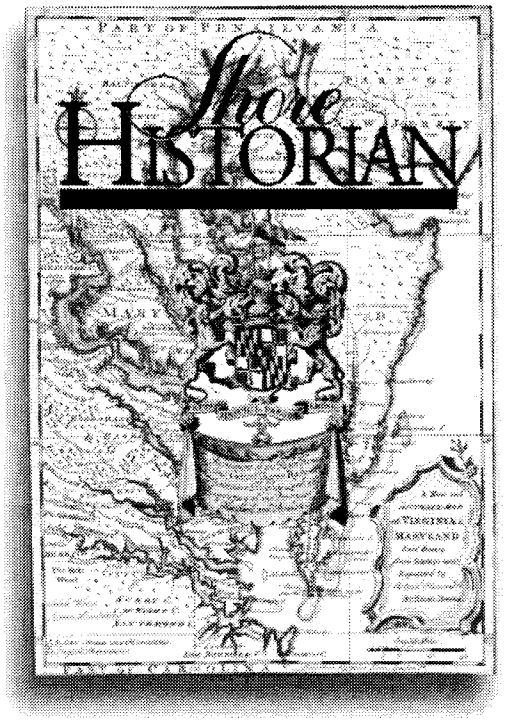
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

Shore Historian Published

The Nabb Research Center and the Department of History at SSU are proud to announce publication of Volume I of the *Shore Historian, A Journal of Historical Studies*, with grateful acknowledgment to President William Merwin and to Provost Don Cathcart for their support of this project. The *Shore Historian* has a focus on topics dealing with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed but is not limited to publication of Chesapeake studies. The fascicle aims to publish articles on all aspects and periods of history but hopes to concentrate on and encourage works that deal with the Chesapeake Bay area. Graduate and undergraduate students, members of the academic community and all those interested in history are encouraged to submit papers for consideration.

This inaugural edition was edited by SSU students Michael Bales, Adam Brahosky, Penelope Grande, Jay Owen and the Nabb Center's graduate students David Johnson and Brad Marsh. Associate editors were students Richard Billman, Brion McClanahan and Aaron Horner; the latter will be a graduate student at the Nabb Center in the Fall. The *Shore Historian* advisory board consisted of the following professors from SSU's Department of History: Dr. Robert Berry, Dr. G. Ray Thompson and Dr. R. Bart Talbert. Added to the board will be Dean Fafoutis, also of the Department of History and Rebecca F. Miller, Director of the Nabb Research Center.



The deadline for receipt of manuscripts is February 1 of each calendar year, with early submissions being strongly encouraged. All communications concerning manuscript and book review guidelines, subscriptions and advertising should be sent to: Dr. Bart Talbert, *Shore Historian*, Department of History, Salisbury State University, 1101 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801; 410-548-4420; E-mail: brtalbert@ssu.edu.

Copies of the *Shore Historian* are available from the Nabb Research Center for $15, plus $2.50 S/H; please make checks payable to SSU Foundation, Inc. and remit to the Nabb Research Center.

Titles of the papers contained in Volume I are as follows:

The American Revolution and A Family Divided, A Study of the Sterling Family of Somerset County by Marion Dawson Phillips

The Passion for Popular Sovereignty: The United States Senate and the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 by Brion McClanahan

The Men of Somerset County and the Civil War: Why Were They Fighting? by David Johnson

Commodore Barney and the War on the Chesapeake by Adam Brahosky

Maryland's Own Tea Party, by Jay Owens

The Jamestown Massacre of 1622 by Michael Bales

Christopher Nutter: An Analysis of His Relationship With the Nanticoke Indians, by Brad Marsh

The Marian Reforms and Their Effects Upon the Roman Military of the Late Republic by Robert Hixon

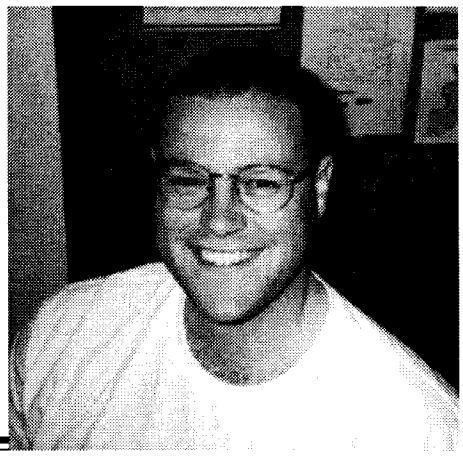
Westward Mail Routes, by Dan Fitzgerald

Frederick Douglass: A Study of Slavery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland by Penelope Grande

Francis Asbury, American Methodist, by Beau Williams

Potions and Prayers: The Practice of Medicine in the Seventeenth Century Chesapeake, by Kathleen McIntyre.

This volume also contains ten book reviews and a section on Nabb Research Center holdings.



Editors David Johnson, left, and Brad Marsh

Nabb Center Publishes
Esther W.P. Lowe *Memories*

With grateful acknowledgment to member John F. Polk, Ph.D. of Havre de Grace, MD, the Nabb Research Center offers for sale, *Memories*, a 24 page typescript, transcribed by Polk from a handwritten transcription of the original. We offer it for purchase at $10 per copy. Following is the Forward from *Memories*, written by Polk.

Esther Winder Polk was born into the genteel ante-bellum world of the rural gentry in a quiet corner of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. In her early years she led an idyllic life of traditional values inhabited with colorful personalities, and in 1844 married Enoch Louis Lowe, an aspiring young lawyer from Frederick, MD. In just a few years Lowe quickly moved up in political circles and was elected the youngest-ever governor of Maryland in 1851, attaining the required age of 30 just before his inauguration.

With her husband as governor, the departed president her kinsman, a burgeoning young family, living in a magnificent mansion astride the Chesapeake at Annapolis, the pageantry of the new Naval Academy at their door, it is hard to imagine what more heaven could offer Lowe, only 27 at the time. This surely was a perfect life. Yet somehow it was not one that left her unsuited for the hardships and the sharp reversal of fortune that was soon to follow with the maelstrom of the Civil War. Governor Lowe was a southerner and his political views forced him to relocate to Virginia, and then to Georgia, for fear of retribution. The years that followed surely tried the courage and character of this family, but did not find them wanting. As with many southern families, all was lost and they were reduced to the barest essentials, especially in the last winter of the war. In the face of the post-war reconstruction, Lowe decided to move to New York City and resume his legal career, believing the cosmopolitan environment to be more tolerant and hopeful than the devastated South. This proved a wise choice and, in due course, he met with success.

The Lowes lived out their days in Brooklyn, his death in 1892 and hers in 1918. The present memoirs were written very late in Esther Lowe's long life but with a clear and stately mind; we are fortunate that they have survived. They are a poignant record of an aristocratic spirit living through a watershed era of American history.

The text of these memoirs is available in the form of a handwritten transcription from the original, available as MS 1949 in the Manuscripts Department of the Maryland Historical Society Library, whose permission to publish the present text is gratefully acknowledged.

Miller Appointed to Archives Advisory Committee

Director of the Nabb Research Center, Rebecca F. Miller, has been appointed to the Search Room Advisory Committee at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, MD, for a two year term which expires in 2001. The Advisory Committee is comprised of 14 researchers from across the state and members of the State Archives Staff. Miller is the only appointee from the Eastern Shore. Familiar faces at the meeting were Nabb Research Center members Doug Hayman, Frank Potter and Vernon L. Skinner.

The May 10th meeting was chaired by State Archivist Edward C. Papenfuse, with presentations by Deputy Archivist Chris Allen, director of Reference Services, "Rocky" Rockefeller and Pat Melville, director of Appraisal and Description. Also attending were Chris Halley, assistant director of Reference Services, and Kevin Swanson, director of Acquisitions and Conservation.

Some of the topics discussed which will be of interest to our readers include fees for vital records. Copies have been increased to $8 each, up from $5; two new microfilm reader-printers are in place in the microfilm room, and the State Archives is laboring to make its web page more user friendly to the public, whom the State Archives serves. The wave of the future is to scan images of documents from microfilm, producing digital images which are better than those copied by reader-printers. The challenge is to treat the electronic record as an "original" record in the catalog and to keep up with ever-changing technology to guarantee continued access once the record is in electronic format. The 1783 tax list for Maryland is posted on the Archives' web site at http://msaweb/msa/stagser/S1400/s1437/html/ and the Maryland Real Property System web site is at http://www.dat.state.md.us.

Barnes (above) and Pilchard Elected Co-Chairs of Board

At the Spring meeting of the board of directors of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for History and Culture, Jeffrey A. Pilchard of Snow Hill, MD, and B. Miles Barnes of Accomac, VA, were elected co-chairs of the board. Pilchard had been acting chair and Barnes the vice chair. Jane Bunting of Berlin, MD, was reelected as secretary. The Nabb Research Center's board, exhibiting a wealth of talent and experience, is a vital element in the success of the center.

Gone But Not Forgotten

Following are the notes from a talk Director Rebecca Miller gave at the Snow Hill Library on March 25th, as requested by member Dr. Robert Jones. The talk netted 15 seconds on WBOC-TV 16, as part of a larger story. Those that know the director will have to imagine the hand gesticulations and "sidebars" that accompanied the talk.

Cemeteries are a distinctive element of the American cultural landscape which reflect changing cultural flavors relating to regionalism, ethnicity and religious influence. Cemeteries are good places to accumulate information that may provide insight into a community's social and economic structure, religious tenets and ethnic composition. The monuments in cemeteries tell a lot through shape, size, type of material, use of epitaphs, positioning with regard to one another and the cemetery as a whole. Think of a tombstone as an artifact used in modern material culture studies which may be used to establish patterns of communication with those who view them. Underlying the idea of an artifact is the idea of human culture; and when we view an object provided by a member of that culture, we have a message from the past.

The simple act of studying a cemetery helps us achieve an enhanced understanding of ourselves and our society—what we are, what we have been and the process of our societal transformation. Markers contain not only statistics, but are records of custom, fashion, economic influences and evidence of epidemics as well as settlement patterns. A tombstone conveys the essence of a life, a message about that life and the place in family, community and society. Unlike recorded history, cemeteries reveal the lives of all and signify the universal commonality of rich and poor alike. If one views each grave marker as an irreplaceable historical document, the graveyards of a community are archives in need of preservation.

Land for cemeteries was often set aside or deeded long before congregations established houses of worship. Thus, the proliferation of small family plots dot the Delmarva landscape. If you discover a cemetery and desire to learn more about it:

- Begin with identifying the actual location of the burial ground so that it may be located on the county tax map, found at the county tax assessor's office. On the tax map, locate the parcel which contains the cemetery. The book and page number of the recorded deed for current ownership will be found on that map.
- Go to the Clerk of Court's office at the county courthouse to view the deed of the property. The current deed may not refer to the burial ground at all. If it does, it will have what is known in common parlance as a "graveyard covenant." You are looking for a descriptive clause in the deed itself of an attached or referenced survey or a plat (diagram of the property) which identifies the graveyard. The first deed will not likely refer to the burial ground. It will indicate the previous owner of the property and contain the deed reference of the previous transaction. Continue researching each deed, as far back as necessary, until you find the "graveyard covenant."
- Note in some nineteenth-century deeds, a deed book and page number will not be provided. In this instance, make a note of the names of the persons who are the grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer). Then look in either the grantor or grantee indices and locate the deed reference. Be aware that land may have been transferred through wills or through probate and all transfers may not be found in the indices. For instance, the will of Jacob Parks, written on October 9, 1866, probated October 3, 1885, directed that all of his property was to be sold "except the graveyard on my farm on which I reside, which graveyard I bequeath to my relations to be a burying place for them and their descendants to all generations" (SCL5:560). If such is the case in your research, unless you are a genealogist or have experience in title searching, it will probably be necessary to consult someone who is familiar with this problem as you will need to consult documents in the Register of Wills office, chancery and judicial records in the Clerk of Court's office, Bible records, newspapers and possibly genealogical collections.

While the first steps of cemetery research necessitate working in the public domain of the tax assessment office and the county courthouse, once deed research dates back to 1900, the Nabb Research Center has microfilms of all the public records found in the courthouses of the lower Delmarva Peninsula, as well as other records previously mentioned. The Nabb Research Center also has books such as *Cemeteries & Grave Markers Voice of American Culture*, edited by Richard E. Meyer and *A Graveyard Preservation Primer* by Lynette Strangstad, as well as published listings of local cemeteries.

All of this research is predicated upon gaining access to the cemetery and listing the names and statistics of the occupants therein. The identities of the occupants will assist you in the title search. Gaining access to the cemetery should be achieved by contacting the property owner and requesting permission to visit the site.

Center Seeks Grant for Delmarva Map

The Nabb Research Center has applied for a $2,000 matching grant from the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Committee to construct a lighted map of the Delmarva Peninsula to serve as a permanent display in the reading room at the center. Plans for the map include depictions of colonial Native American locations in the 1608 John Smith exploration of the Chesapeake Bay, the colonial migration and settlement of the peninsula and the various boundary lines of what became the Delmarva Peninsula.

Center member Philip L. Goldsborough of Crisfield, locally noted for his map-making skills and research, will work on the project with the director, Rebecca F. Miller, to accurately portray map locations. Volunteers are needed to prepare story boards to accompany the map. Future upgrades to the map will include sound, to replace the story boards.

Wetipquin Academy

The public are hereby informed, that this institution is now open for the education of youth. The teacher is employed for the year; and he hopes, by constant and entire devotion to his calling, and the strictest and most thorough attention to all the youth placed under his care, to give entire satisfaction to all, who patronize or take interest in the school. And not only to give satisfaction thus far, but he hopes also to be useful, to the extent of his humble ability, in promoting the cause of moral intellectual and physical education.

He has made inquiry, and he believes, that good boarding can be obtained in the neighborhood, on reasonable terms; and any youth that may come from any other neighborhood to board in this and attend the academy, will be kindly received and diligently watched over.

The teacher will make it a part of his duty frequently to visit such scholars at their boarding houses, and taken, as far as possibly, a parental care of them. By this means he will be able the better to attend to their morals and direct and assist them in taken care of their health.

These points he considers of great importance; for, what avails the knowledge of letters, when health is gone? Or, when, in acquiring this knowledge, habits have been contracted, which will speedily and most certainly destroy health? Or, of what profit are both health and literary knowledge, if he, who possesses them, has not virtue enough to use them to the advancement of his own happiness or the happiness of others?

The selection of books and all the internal arrangements of the school are committed to the teacher; and he will not fail diligently to seek the best information on these points, and make such a selection and such regulations only, as rationally appear to the be most judicious. As it regards these points, the books and the internal regulations of the institution, thus committed to him, he pledges himself constantly to study how he may best give to every scholar the most thorough and useful education at the least expense.

The price of tuition will be about 3, 4 or 5 dollars per quarter, according to the branches of study, which each scholar pursues. $5 will be charged for those only, who study either or both of the Latin and Greek languages.

As a general rule, each scholar, unless prevented by sickness, will be expected to continue to the end of the current quarter; but, for the accommodation of some, for whom, on account of their business, it would be inexpedient to continue to the end of a quarter, these will be received monthly at the same rate of tuition.

Most respectfully, servant of the public
W.S. Dix Teacher.
Jan. 9, 1838

This notice appeared in the Tuesday, 3 April 1838 edition of The *Herald*. Another article below it was for Easton Academy, in Easton, Talbot County, advertising instruction by Thomas Pearson "with subjects in Orthography, Reading, Writing, Artithmetic, English Grammar, Geography, embracing civil, physical, ancient and sacred". This newspaper and two others, of 1828 and 1848 vintage, were recently photocopied from the originals held by Center member Priscilla Walter of Tyaskin. These newspapers are not available in a public repository, so the Center was very glad to learn of their existence and we thank Mrs. Walter for allowing us to copy them.

Schnug Winner of Washburn Student Prize

Congratulations are in order to Jennifer S. Schnug, the 1999 winner of the Wilcomb E. Washburn Student Prize in History. A $500 prize was given by the Nabb Research Center, from an endowment established by the William H. Donner Foundation of New York in honor of the late Dr. Washburn. The prestigious prize is awarded annually to a student at Honors Convocation at SSU.

Schnug presented a paper concerning Pemberton Hall Foundation's 30-year effort to preserve and restore Pemberton Hall in Wicomico County, MD. The preservation effort was one of the first restorations of its kind on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore, and it elevated public appreciation for Delmarva's long and fertile history. Pemberton Hall currently serves as an authentic house-museum that helps students and tourists experience and understand local colonial life. The project to save the house from ruin significantly raised the community's awareness of the need for historic preservation, and resulted in the creation of Pemberton Historic Park.

The paper relies on extensive use of primary sources available at the Nabb Research Center, most notably from the Mary Katherine "Polly" White Burnett and Mel Toadvine collections. Schnug's paper is a good example of exploration in local history, utilizing the rich collection of historical documents at the Nabb Research Center, available to students at Salisbury State University; and an illustration of a high standard for undergraduate study in local history.

Thompson's Tips on Colonial Handwriting

Saturday, April 17, was the day G. Ray Thompson, chair of the Department of History and founder of the Nabb Research Center, enlightened a dozen patrons about the mysteries of colonial handwriting. Thompson provided examples of letters of the alphabet written in seventeenth-century hand, as well as many of the more common abbreviations for given names and civil offices, *i.e.*, Tho^{s} for Thomas, CL for clerk.

Thompson had prepared selections of different quotes out of context to see if the workshop patrons could decipher the words out of their context, using only their newly-gained recognition of colonial lettering. Additionally, many examples of colonial records were put on the microfilm readers to illustrate various styles of handwriting. As a bonus, Thompson helped several individuals transcribe documents of their own choosing.

Native Americans in Delaware

Edward "Ned" Heite, head of Heite Consulting and former historic registrar for Delaware, discussed "Invisible Communities and Sites in Delaware" on April 15, at the Nabb Research Center. Heite served as the chief of the Delaware Bureau of Archives and Records Management. His assignments included a statewide survey of historic sites and the restoration of the Old State House in Dover. In addition, he was previously an archaeological historian for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and directed the excavation of nineteenth-century Fredericksville Furnace and the 17th Century Hallowes site in Virginia.

Heite presented a very interesting talk on Native Americans in Delaware and explored methodology of research documenting their existence; from the end of the seventeeth-century to the end of nineteenth-century, no Indians were legally recognized in Delaware. Indians who paid taxes were enumerated in the census together with African Americans under the classification of "free persons of color." Many were called "mulattoes," a term that encompassed any non-white person, regardless of ancestry. Heite emphasized that, "the first principle of historical research is that a document is witness only to itself."

During nearly three centuries, Indian remnant communities, such as the one in Kent County, DE, managed to retain separate identities, a tight community of social structure and their oral heritage of native ancestry. Modern descendants of these people have organized themselves into the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, with headquarters at Cheswold. Heite explained that Indians on Delmarva remained here because their ancestors "consciously renounced their native culture," adopting characteristics of the dominant society and became landowners indistinguishable on the record from their white neighbors.

If you missed this great lecture sponsored by the Nabb Research Center, look for Heite to speak to the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society next year. Heite is a member of the Nabb Research Center. We thank him for a very informative lecture.

Hear Ye! 1877 Atlases Available for Sale

Through the courtesy of Nabb Research Center member John L. "Jack" Graham, we have been able to purchase 15 copies of the much sought after *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, published by the Wicomico Bicentennial Commission in 1976 with the cooperation of the Bicentennial Commissions and Historical Societies of Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. In addition, Graham has donated to the Nabb Research Center, for purposes of resale, single sheet copies of the following maps which are contained in the atlas:

Outline Plan of Wicomico, Somerset & Worcester Counties, MD (10).
John Smith's 1629 Map (67).
Circa 1840 (mid-Chesapeake Bay) (77).
Wicomico County Set (20 pages) (4).
Salisbury Districts 9, 5 and 8 (22).
1673 Augustine Herrman Map (84).
Thomas Buffet Map (1676 MD & VA) (110).

The charge for the atlas is $65; individual "original" maps are $6 and color laser copies of the listed maps are $3. The Wicomico County Sets are $35 each. These are residual, unused books and maps recently discovered by Graham and made available for resale to benefit the Nabb Research Center. Bookstores specializing in used collectible books have been charging up to $75 for used volumes of the atlas, depending upon condition.

Members of the Nabb Research Center receive "first dibs" on purchases before we advertise on our web site July 1. No member discount will apply on this very special, impossible-to-find, book. Please make your check payable to SSU Foundation, Inc., for the appropriate amount plus $2.50 s/h and remit to the Nabb Research Center.

Hallsall Conducts Childrens' Program

On Saturday, April 24, Diane Halsall of Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., in Fairfax, VA, presented a program geared to children under 12 concerning archaeology and Native American culture. Halsall was involved in the Hickory Bluff site at the St. Jones River in Dover, DE, a five-acre archaelolgical site occupied during the Woodland period (3,000 B.C.-A.D.1,000). Halsall brought Native American artifacts such as spear points and arrowheads, as well as chipped stone tools and sherds of pottery. These could be examined by the children to help them create "artifacts" of their own. She also dicussed the Nanticoke, whose name translates to mean "People of the Tidal Waters," who were prolific producers of wampum shell beads, made from the shellfish they depended upon for their diet.

According to Becky Miller's children, Emily and Austin, the morning was "great fun," and they learned a lot about Native Americans. The Nabb Research Center hopes to have Halsall repeat her program next year.

Center Seeks Collectible Delaware Books

We recently came across a web site touting the "Top Collectible Delaware Books," and noted that of the top eight, the Nabb Research Center has three; and from the next ten, we have one. As you will see, most are about New Castle and Kent Counties, but we would like to provide them. The following are the top books which we solicit for donation to the Nabb Research Center collection:

Henry Seidel Canby, *The Age of Confidence*, (1934). [PN4874.C23 A27]
Francis A. Cooch, *Little Known History of Newark, Delaware, and Its Environs*, (1936). [F174.N55 C6]
William P. Frank, *Bill Frank's Delaware*. [F164.5.F73 1987]
Anna T. Lincoln, *Wilmington, Delaware: Three Centuries Under Four Flags*, (1937). [F174.W7L6]
Elisabeth Meg, *Packet Alley*, (1951). [P27.M5135 Pac]
Charles A. Silliman, *A Time to Remember: 1920-1960*. [early Wilmington photographs]
C.A. Weslager, *Brandywine Springs*, (1949). [F172.B8W4]
Frank R. Zebley, *The Churches of Delaware*, (1940).
Harold B. Hancock, *Delaware During the Civil War*

Smith Island Exhibit a Great Success

Iris Powell and Corinne LesCallette

The Nabb Research Center's photographic exhibit, "Smith Island Life," curated by member Gail M. Walczyk of Coram, NY, was a great success and generated good publicity. If you missed the exhibit, which has been in SSU's Atrium Gallery from April 2 - May 21, you may still enjoy it at the Nabb Research Center; it will be hung in the reading room through the summer to accommodate our summer visitors from all over the United States. We are indebted to Walczyk for her countless hours of work on the exhibit, many trips from New York (and what must have been a huge telephone bill) and great effort to assist the Nabb Research Center in its mission of preserving the history of Delmarva.

The exhibit is comprised of photographs collected by native Smith Islander Jim Bradshaw (now of San Diego), Walczyk and Meggan Henrich of Long Island, NY. Bradshaw has been photographing islanders' old photographs for over a decade, to preserve the history of the island. All of the exhibit, except the two large aerial photographs, have been donated to the Nabb Research Center by Walczyk. She is well-known in the genealogical community as an authority on the history of the islands of the Chesapeake Bay.

Norman "Chuck" Evans, a North Carolina native and a graphics art professor in Ames, IA, posted to the Ghotes website the following message (also posted to Shari Handley's Delmarva Roots List): "I recently drove a 1,000 plus miles to see the exhibition of photographs from Smith Island now on display at Salisbury State University's Atrium Gallery. The quality of photographs and their display was excellent. It was quite an experience for me to see pictures of some of my long past relatives. I want to thank Jim Bradshaw (no doubt a distant relative also) for his work in collection photos over the years and generously sharing them. Much thanks to Gail Walczyk for the endless number of tasks in organizing, curating and installing the exhibition. Last and most important is thanks to all the families, past and present on Smith Island. Please post this on your web site if you can."

Gail Walczyk, exhibit curator

Handley's Annual Trek to Center in August

Shari Handley, of Michigan, is well known to "genealogy web surfers" as the webmistress of Handley's Eastern Shore Page and the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society Page, as well as list owner of Delmarva Roots List. She will be making her annual pilgrimage to the Nabb Research Center and the peninsula. As part of her week-long visit to the Shore, Handley organizes the "Cem-Trekkers," an intrepid group of researchers willing to battle thigh-high weeds, ticks and snakes to visit ancestral cemeteries in the area. Handley's visits attract many visitors to the Nabb Research Center, resulting in new memberships.

The main day of "congregation" at the Nabb Research Center will be Monday, August 9. Local history and cemetery buff (and naturally, one of our members) Jim Trader will be speaking to the group at 1:30 p.m. on the proper listing and care of old cemeteries. Trader has listed over 500 cemeteries and is a charter member of the Maryland Coalition to Protect Burial Sites, Inc.

Additionally, the Nabb Research Center will present a genealogical workshop, "Corroborating Net Research With Primary Sources," conducted by Director Rebecca F. Miller on Saturday, August 7, 1-5 p.m. Most lineages posted on the Internet are undocumented. This is your chance to learn how to prove your lineage, using resources at the Nabb Research Center. The workshop is estimated to be two hours of lecture and two hours of hands-on research using the records at the center, guided by Miller. This is an opportunity to gain some expert advice on those hard to crack lines.

The cost of the workshop is $40. Please make checks payable to SSU Foundation, Inc., and remit to the Nabb Research Center. Space is limited to 25.

Just A Simple Soldier

The following poem was sent to the director by a friend. It seems to capture the essence of a shoreman soldier so well. As we think about Memorial Day, this poem is offered to all our boys and particularly in memory of member Harry C. Robertson of Bethesda, MD, and Jim Murrell, husband of Center friend Betty Murrell. SSU offered a class during the spring semester, History 490, *Studies in History: World War II*. The Nabb Research Center collects, and has a variety of, resources about the great war.

Just A Simple Soldier

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion
Telling stories of the past -

Of a war that he had fought in
And the deeds that he had done.
In his exploits with his buddies,
They were heroes, everyone.

And 'tho sometimes, to his neighbors,
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened,
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer,
For a soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Quietly going on his way,
And the world won't note his passing,
'tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young;
But the passing of a soldier
Goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow,
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,
For it is so long ago
That our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys
Went to battle, but we know.

It was not the politicians,
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier,
Who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin, and Country,
And would fight until the end?

He was just a common Soldier
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us -
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
Then we find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
FOR A SOLDIER DIED TODAY"

~Author Unknown~

Volunteers Continue Assistance to Research Center

Polly Batchelder, volunteer

The Nabb Research Center has long depended upon volunteers who generously give their time and knowledge for the betterment of the Center. The following individuals helped from July through February: Pat Taylor, 329.25 hours; Polly Batchelder, 158 hours; Fay Brooks, 84.5 hours; Nancy Dorman, 75 hours; Lucy Whitehead, 54.25 hours; Lloyd Whitehead, 41 hours; Marelyn Webb, 28.25 hours and Barbara Trader, 12 hours. Not to be forgotten is Center board chair, Jeff Pilchard, who also volunteers on Monday nights as well as G. Ray Thompson, who volunteers much of his time. We are particularly indebted to Fay Brooks, as she performs much of the genealogical research for which the Nabb Research Center receives remuneration. Without these individuals, the Nabb Research Center would be at a loss. Thank you to our precious volunteers.

57 More Reels to View

For your researching needs the Nabb Research Center has just received 57 additional reels of microfilm we purchased from the Maryland State Archives. For those researchers who have been anxiously awaiting the patent records, we now have patents from 1746 through 1758 to augment our existing collection. These reels correspond with Peter Wilson Coldhams Settlers of Maryland 1751-1765, which is the only index to these records. We do not anticipate ordering any more patent records for Maryland in the near future.

Additionally, we just received 36 reels of Somerset County records–deeds from 1881 through 1900 and marriage records 1866-1962 (5 reels). We have met this years objective in acquiring land records to 1900 for the tri-County area of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties, Maryland. These records have been needed for archaeological classes, which include title searches. We hope these new reels will be of great value to members as they pursue their research.

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Barratt's Chapel—Check It Out On-line

Barratt's Chapel Museum houses a small research library emphasizing Methodist history and the archives of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. The archives contain a wide variety of material dating from the eighteenth century to the present, including membership records of closed churches, annual conference records, sermons, memoirs and personal papers of, among others, Ezekiel Cooper and Bishop Levi Scott. These facilities are open to the public, and used by many, doing Methodist-related genealogy, writing local church histories and pursuing other Methodist research.

The URL for Barratts Chapel is http://hometown.aol.com/Barratts/home.html. While most of their listed records on the web site are for Kent and New Castle Counties, DE, and general Methodist history and papers, below are a few listings that may be of interest to Nabb Research Center members.

Ebenezer Church (formerly Todd's Chapel), Dorchester County, MD
Membership Book, 1885-1900, 004-11
Historical Records, 1885-1900. Trustees, 1890-1898. Class Records, 1885-1897. Membership Records, 1886-1900. Marriage Records, 1885-1899.

Georgetown ME Church, Sussex County, DE
Classbooks, 1870-1877, 030-18
Two classbooks for "Tuesday Evening Class," 1870 and 1877.

Massey, Rev. James Augustus, MD
Presiding Elder's Record Book, 1842-1847, 029-45
Presiding Elder of Snow Hill District. List of Official Members. Furniture belonging to church for use of P.E. Apportionments for support of P.E. quarterly conferences.
Note: This is the same minister who served in Somerset County.

Barratts Chapel has research hours by appointment. For further information, please contact Lynn Hobbs, Curator, Barratt's Chapel & Museum, 6362 Bay Road, Frederica, DE 19946
302-335-5544, e-mail Barratts@aol.com.

1810 Somerset Census Corrections

Have you had trouble finding an ancestor from 1810 in Somerset County, when you knew he was there but couldn't find him in the census? Try using the primary source of the 1810 census on microfilm, conveniently located at the Nabb Research Center. On the first page of the published version, there are eight mistakes. On another page in Little Annamessex District, which is erroneously described as "Great Annamessex District," the transcriber somehow read "Thomas Layfield," when it is actually "Hance Croswell." The following are examples of misreadings from the popular published transcription of that census. These are taken only from five pages of the 35 page published version and are from the Wicomico, Princess Anne, Monie and Rewastico areas. An historian seeking Governor Levin Winder would not find him as he is erroneously listed as "Windsor" in the secondary source.

Jacob Harman–Jacob Karwan [Kirwan]
Smith Lewis, Sr.–Smith Sims, Sr.
Smith Lewis, Jr.–Smith Sims, Jr.
Thomas Rencher–H.C. Rencher [Renshaw]
George Jones–George Jones of Robert
Isaish Bayley–Isaiah Bayley
Littleton Burton–Littleton Brereton
Sarah Disharone–Sarah Debonne
Little D. Teackle–Littleton D. Teackle
Robert I. Horsey–Robert J. King
John Savanaugh–John Cavanaugh
Oliver Carter–Oliver Costen
David Rose–David Rosse [Ross]
George Simmons–George Summers [Somers]
Stephen Parker–Stephen Parkes [Parks]
Arthur Parker–Arthur Parkes [Parks]
Genl. Levin Windsor–Genl. Levin Winder
Jabus Pitchel–Jabus Pritchet
George Collins–George Collier
John McAllen, Sr.–John McAllister, Sr.
Edward Harmon–Edward Hammon